

Serial No.: 09/511,265
Examiner: Shick C. Horn

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 3-7, 9, 16-22 are currently pending in this application, with claims 1, 6, 21 and 22 being independent claims. Claims 2, 8 and 12-15 have been presently canceled. Claims 1, 6, and 16-20 have been amended.

In the outstanding office action claims 16-20 were objected to because of certain informalities. Applicant has amended these claims pursuant to the Examiner's suggestion. Therefore, Applicant respectfully request that these objections be withdrawn.

Regarding the rejection of claim 18 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, for being indefinite, Applicant has amended claim 18 to now depend from claim 17, and asserts that claim 18 as currently presented overcomes this rejection. Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

Regarding independent claims 1, 6, 21 and 22, in the office action, dependent claims 2, 8, 3, and 5 were objected to, but indicated to be allowable is rewritten to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Regarding claim 2, Applicant has amended claim 1 to substantially include all the limitations of dependent claim 2. Applicant therefore respectfully asserts that claim 1 as now presented overcomes this objection. Regarding claim 8, Applicant has amended claim 6 to substantially include all the limitations of dependent claim 8. Applicant therefore respectfully asserts that claim 6 as now present overcomes this objection. Regarding added independent claims 21 and 22, Applicant asserts that claim 21 substantially includes the limitations of independent claim 1 and dependent claim 3 while claim 22 substantially includes the limitations of claim 1 and dependent claims 4 and 5. Applicants therefore respectfully asserts that independent claims 1, 6, 21 and 22 are in condition for allowance.

Regarding claims 3, 4 and 5, as these claims depend either directly or indirectly from independent claim 1, and therefore include all the limitations of claim 1 therein, for the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 1, Applicant respectfully asserts that these claims are in condition for allowance.


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Regarding claims 7 and 9, as these claims depend either directly or indirectly from independent claim 6, and therefore include all the limitations of claim 6 therein, for the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 6, Applicant respectfully asserts that these claims are in condition for allowance.

It is believed that the foregoing amendment places the Application in condition for allowance; therefore, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the Examiner's objections and rejections as set forth in the Office Action, and full allowance of the claims. Should the Examiner have any further comments or suggestions, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned to expeditiously resolve any outstanding issues.

Respectfully submitted,

ALCATEL


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